

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Patent Application of

Takeshi FUNAHASHI

Group Art No.: 2621

Application No. 10/091,294

Filed: March 6, 2002

For: FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM, FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION APPARATUS, FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION METHOD, AND BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION APPARATUS.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**RECEIVED**

JAN 28 2003

Technology Center 2600

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the following paragraphs as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1)(iii), the amended paragraphs are set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this Amendment.

Beginning at page 1, line 7:

A The present invention relates to a fingerprint identification system, apparatus, and method for reading a fingerprint from a human finger and comparing the fingerprint against a fingerprint which has been registered in advance, for example, for the purpose of authentication. The present invention also relates to a biometric identification apparatus for reading biometric